Living tribes

1316. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of living tribes in different parts of the country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether Government have provided enough financial assistance for these tribal communities for their education, rehabilitation, etc.; and

(c) if so, the funds earmarked for each tribal community during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) There are 706 communities identified as Scheduled Tribes in the country which are State specific. Out of these, 35 communities have been notified as Scheduled Tribes in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) and (c) This Ministry has been providing funds to the State/UT Governments, including Andhra Pradesh, under various schemes for socio-economic as well as educational development of the Scheduled Tribes. These funds are in addition to what is provided by different Ministries/ Departments of Government of India and by the States/UTs in their own budget. Funds are also provided under various schemes to NGOs working in different States/UTs. The funds are earmarked scheme-wise in favour of each State/UT Government having tribal population. They are not earmarked for particular tribal communities. During the year 2003-04 and 2004-2005, the Ministry has sanctioned Rs. 893.90 Crores and 1052.96 Crores for the welfare of STs. Out of these, Rs. 81.48 Crores and Rs. 69.61 Crores were released in favour of Andhra pradesh during the aforesaid two years.

Dalit Freedom Network

1317. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an organization known as Dalit Freedom Network (DFN) has been set up in Washington with the help of the American Government to raise awareness among the plights of Dalits and Tribals of India and to secure resources to fund holistic programmes for their development; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?